

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

Volume XVIII.

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## AGRICULTURE

### HARRY FARMER'S TALKS. CXVII.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

Does it pay to use commercial fertilizer? If it does, how are we going to know just how much to use on certain crops? These questions have been asked perhaps a thousand times this spring. It is so important for a farmer to know these things that every available means should be used to help him.

What does Harry Farmer do to find out? Why, he uses the fertilizer and then measures and weighs the crop to see how much the fertilized rows or plats increase the yield over the unfertilized land. The fertilizer is used in varying amounts and the amounts which give the largest net gain is the one adopted. We subtract the cost of the fertilizer and extra cost in handling the crops from the increase in the yield and the difference is the profit.

We mentioned an experiment on cotton in a former talk and will now mention some on corn. An application of 250 to 300 pounds of a fair grade of fertilizer costing about \$20 a ton was used. Some rows were left unfertilized and the corn and fodder (blades only) were carefully weighed. The increase in the corn was about ten bushels per acre. The increase in the fodder was about 35 per cent. Now to pass along and look at it, there was but little difference in the size of the stalk, ears or blades. When we pulled the fodder we noticed that the blades on the unfertilized corn were not so coarse or wide. You could have noticed the difference in the dark from the sense of touch. The ears were larger every way, excepting the husk or sheath, which was about the same. This was about an average crop year. Bad seasons would have effected the yield some. The cow-peas among the corn were better where the fertilizer was used.

Now we calculate that at least 25 per cent of the fertilizer will not be available or will not be used by the crop the first year, but will help succeeding crops. We know a field that showed it for ten years.

We heard two farmers discussing the use of sulphate of potash on sweet potatoes. One said he got no benefit from it while the other was well pleased. Now these farmers' lands joined. We mentioned this to

show that the other fellow's experiment will not always be best for us. So the only way is to try it ourselves on a small scale first.

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It is hard some time to give directions for work to be done. To tell your man to run the rows east and west and find later that he runs them north and south is quite provoking. The only way we can succeed is to go and show them just how we want the work done. When you put boys to work it is very necessary for you to take hold and show them, and then let the boys try the job before you leave. It is far better when you can not be present yourself to hire men of experience to do your work if the cost is a little more. The boy will dump a load of manure on the ditch bank where it will do no good, or else put it thick in one place and thin in another. We like to work boys when we can be with them; if we cannot, give us the experienced man.

HARRY FARMER.

### EAST TENNESSEE FARMERS' CONVENTION.

Program of the 28th Annual Session to be Held in Knoxville, May 21, 22, 23, 1903.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

I herewith hand you a copy of the East Tennessee Farmers' Convention program. This is the first official announcement of the meeting, and I am handing it to you in advance of the printed program. As the single fare to this Convention applies over a large territory, many of your readers will be interested in seeing a copy of the program and of learning authentically about the meeting. I sincerely trust, therefore, that you can use the program in your paper, feeling sure that by so doing you will convey desirable information to many of your readers as well as assist us materially in the endeavor we are making to educate our farmers and to promote the agricultural interests of the South.

Very respectfully,  
ANDREW M. SOULE,  
Secretary.

THURSDAY.

Music will be furnished at intervals throughout the entire program by the University of Tennessee Band and Quartette.

9.00.—Convention called to order by the president.

Invocation by Rev. R. L. Bachman, Knoxville.

9.15.—Address of Welcome, Hon. O. P. Temple, Knoxville.

9.45.—Annual Address of the president, Hon. T. B. McLemore, Ball Camp.

10.00.—The Cowpea for Soil Improvement and Hay and Grazing, Prof. W. F. Massey, Editor Practical Farmer, Raleigh, N. C.

Discussion by Mr. W. T. Roberts, Riceville; Mr. A. H. Tipton, Greenville; Mr. J. B. Stinespring, Sanford; Dr. W. H. Taylor, Newmarket.

11.00.—What the State Bureau of Agriculture is Doing for the Farmer, Hon. W. W. Ogilvie, Commissioner of Agriculture, Nashville.

11.30.—Five-minute talks on agricultural conditions by the county vice-presidents.

Question Box.

Recess.

1.30.—The Improvement of Strawberries, Prof. C. A. Keffer, Tennessee Experiment Station. Fifty varieties of strawberries grown at the Station will be on exhibition.

Discussion by Mr. J. C. Hodges, Morriston; Mr. H. M. Wilson, Niota; Mr. W. W. Wallace, Harriman; Mr. A. M. Mettetal, Johnson City.

2.30.—Grazing vs. Stall Feeding, Prof. Thos. Shaw, Editor the Farmer, St. Paul, Minn.

Discussion by Mr. W. D. Browder, Sweetwater; Mr. J. M. Fain, Blountville; Mr. W. R. Stokely, Del Rio.

3.30.—Will Agricultural Education Pay? Mr. J. E. Hite, Gallatin.

Discussion by Mr. MacC. Franklin, Jefferson City; Mr. H. C. Maloney, Warrenburg; Mr. A. O. Ring, Winchester; Mr. E. S. Huffham, Normandy.

4.30.—Mechanical Conformation in the Horse, Dr. M. Jacob, Tennessee Experiment Station.

Question Box.

Recess.

7.30.—Address: The Greatest Need of Tennessee, Governor J. B. Frazier.

8.30.—Good Roads and How to Build Them (illustrated), Hon. M. O. Eldridge, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

FRIDAY.

8.30.—Convention called to order. A Practical Demonstration in Judging Cattle with the Score Card, Prof. Thos. Shaw. Suitable specimens of cattle will be brought before the audience to illustrate the importance of conformation.

9.30.—Results of Feeding Trials

on the Station Farm, 1903, Prof. Jno. R. Fain, Tennessee Experiment Station.

Discussion by Mr. G. H. Strong, McMillan; Mr. E. A. Shipley, Jonesboro; Mr. J. P. Hagler, Euchée.

10.30.—Grasses: Bermuda, Mr. W. Gettys, Athens; Tall Oat Grass, Mr. A. Buffat, Knoxville; Blue Grass, Mr. C. M. Smith, Rogersville; Clover, Mr. J. W. Cate, Cleveland; Mixed Grasses, Mr. P. O. Vanatter, Tennessee Experiment Station.

Question Box.

Recess.

1.30.—Can We Profitably Reclaim and Improve our Worn-out Soils? Mr. Clarendon Davis, Huntsville, Ala.

Discussion by Mr. A. R. Ranklin, Jasper; Dr. P. L. Cline, White Pine; Judge H. B. Lindsay, Knoxville.

2.30.—Selecting and Improving Corn, Prof. Andrew M. Soule, Tennessee Experiment Station. Illustrated by varieties of corn collected from different sections of the State.

Discussion.

3.30.—The Commercial Interests of the Farmer, Mr. R. M. K. Deakins, Morning Star; Mr. S. E. Young, Sweetwater.

4.30.—Butter-Making, Mr. E. S. Barnes, Tennessee Experiment Station.

Discussion by Mr. G. B. Wheeler, Morristown; Mr. D. C. Young, Sweetwater.

Question Box.

Recess.

7.30.—The Rurals Schools, Prof. S. A. Mynders, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Nashville.

8.30.—Grasses and Forage Crops for the South (illustrated), Prof. W. J. Spillman, Agrostologist, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

SATURDAY.

8.30.—Convention called to order. Development of Market Gardening in the South, Prof. W. F. Massey. Discussion by Mr. A. H. Dailey, Knoxville; Mr. A. D. Reynolds, Bristol; Mr. E. S. Wise, Bristol.

9.30.—General Discussion on the Silo, by P. F. Kefauver, Madisonville; Mr. J. A. Reagan, Sweetwater; Mr. W. G. Lenoir, Philadelphia; Mr. S. P. White, Pluski; Mr. Geo. F. Mellen, Knoxville; Mr. Geo. Timmins, Jefferson City; Prof. W. F. Massey and Prof. Thos. Shaw.

Models of a number of types of silos, with the cost of construction, will be on exhibition.

11.30.—Report of the Secretary and Treasurer.

Election of officers.

2.00.—A visit will be made to the University farm where the barns, seed laboratories, dairy hall and experimental plants are situated.